

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: HISAO NAKANO, retired Honolulu Laundry driver

Hisao Nakano, Japanese, was born in Japan in 1900. He arrived in Hawaii as a baby in 1903 but was sent back because of illness. After eight years of education in Japan, he returned to Hawaii in 1914, settling in Kakaako with his father. His mother had passed away in 1908.

He worked as an apprentice store delivery boy and a store clerk in two Japanese stores. He began peddling ice in 1923. He married in 1927. He sold his ice peddling business in 1937, then took a short trip to Japan. When he returned to Kakaako, he established an appliance sales and repair shop.

During World War II, military authorities closed his shop. He went to work as a Honolulu Laundry driver for the next 25 years.

Hisao has lived in Kakaako continuously since 1914; built a small apartment on his Queen Street property in 1955.

A lifelong interest in learning prompted diligent study of English, correspondence courses, violin lessons, and a study of name analysis. He has written for the Hawaii Hochi and the Hawaii Times and is writing a book on the history of Ainu in Japan.

TIME LINE

1900	birth: Japan
1914	came to Hawaii on his own
1923	started ice peddling
1927	married
1939	opened appliance sales and repair shop
1942	driver for Honolulu Laundry
1955	built apartment building on property
1967	retired from Honolulu Laundry

TAPE NO. 3-40-1-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hisao Nakano (HN)

February 18, 1978

Kakaako, Honolulu, Hawaii

BY: Chad Taniguchi (CT)

CT: This is an interview with Mr. Hisao Nakano at his house in Kakaako. Today is February 18, 1978, Saturday. Mr. Nakano, I know you came to Hawaii in 1914, but before that, I wonder if you would tell me why your parents came from Yamaguchi prefecture to Hawaii.

HN: I think that time my father [was in] agriculture and partly fishing business, you know, the small country section, eh. So anyway, my father young time, that's why maybe ambitious to make more money. (Laughs) To come to Hawaii. Anyway, [when I was] about three years old, Mama came to Honolulu. As soon as I arrive Honolulu, you know, maybe [I had] something eye trouble. That's why inspection not allowed so I [was] sent back [with] my mother's friend or acquaintance. And then go back to the same native [village] eh.

CT: In Japan, in Yamaguchi-ken what kind of place did you grow up in?

HN: My native place is small town just like island, eh. Inland island. One of the island.

CT: So mainly fishing and....

HN: Yes. Partly fishing, partly agriculture.

CT: What kind agriculture?

HN: Oh, just making what we call rice field, small rice field section. And then some vegetables, raise up like this [indicates terraced fields] part-time.

CT: Then in 1914, you came to Hawaii and you lived with your father. At that time, can you describe where you lived and what kind of neighborhood it was in Kakaako?

HN: Yeah. I stay at nearby South Street and Halekauwila Street. Around there I stayed with my father. And he engage in this partnership, fishing boat, because Kakaako section [had many fishermen]. But I was 14 year time, and as soon as I come, I like to learn English. First time, I don't know nothing, you see. So about after four,

five months, I attend English school on Beretania Street. This Trinity Mission school I remember. And three, four months, I attend over there. And soon vacation came. I don't know what vacation. This winter time vacation. I don't remember very well. And then after that, I go into the small--Mr. Nakamura's running this store--for apprentice that time, eh. But I have various chance to learn English, or speak English. But anyway, one, two year I work over there, help to delivering, and then taking order, service, you know, (Laughs) for customer.

CT: How did you get the job at Nakamura Store?

HN: Oh, this, my father and this Nakamura Store's boss is acquaintance, see, friends. This Nakamura Store is on Magoon Block, we call. It's right on the Queen Street and South Street, at the corner section. Long, olden wooden house, you know. That middle section, this Mr. Nakamura running one small store, you know. And then after new building come up King and Alapai, and then we moved over here.

[HN gets up to greet someone at the door. Taping stops then resumes.]

CT: We were talking about you were working at Nakamura Store and you said that [the store] moved to Alapai. You said you were apprentice. What that means to be apprentice?

HN: This, you know, for business, eh. But this one small grocery business. That's why I went to customer-to-customer, and take order, and then this order, all prepared. And after, I deliver to each customer what the customer ordered.

CT: Did you deliver with what?

HN: All kind of grocery. Every day use they need, eh. They order and then I take---dictate a note. And then according to the note, I prepared everything so deliver to each customer.

CT: At this time did you go by car or truck?

HN: Oh, that time, first time, eh, only small number of customer, that's why only nearby. Pushcar, you know. I use pushcar, and then each one I deliver. But after that business increase, and then boss afford me a horse and then buggy, you know. (Laughs) And then, I'm driving horse, and then I deliver the stuff, you know. Yeah about one year, year and a half this continuing.

And then one old man ask me, you know, "You have chance to more good pay, or more you have a time to go study." This a wholesale store, you know. Nose Store. So negotiations. And then I ask the boss. Most that time, you know, wages very low. We call shoki. Shoki means secretary, you know, in the store. Bookkeeping. Yeah. Bookkeeping is about \$45 a month, that time. I apprentice, that's why my wages are very low, you know.

CT: What was it?

HN: You know, about \$10, \$15, you see. Most partly time [part-time], very low, you see. But never mind. I like to learn English. But most Japanese store, there's no chance to speak English--haole customers scarcely come, you know. Most nearby Japanese. That's why I change the store to wholesale store, Nose Store.

CT: During the time you were at Nakamura Store, you got paid \$10, \$15 a month?

HN: Yeah, about like this. I kaukau over here [at the store], say three time, eh.

CT: With the family?

HN: With the family, see. So I'm young, you see. (Laughs) So \$10, \$15 just enough, yeah. No time to spend money, you see. But every morning start about 8 o'clock to call to house-to-house, take order. And then after that, prepare this stuff, and then to deliver, you see.

CT: So you took order in the morning?

HN: Yes. Morning. Each customer, go around and take order. And then afternoon, most, I prepare everything. Suppose no more stop, I go--- get the wholesale store, this stop. And then prepare for customer's order. And then about 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock, all finish, you know.

CT: So you work about 10 hours then?

HN: Oh yes. No limitation. [When the] work finish, [then] I have leisure time, you know. (Laughs) Anyway, whole day work together with this store family, see.

CT: You were apprentice to learn what job? Eventually what kind job?

HN: Most customers, how to handle business, you know. How to take care customers. And da kine. Most I experience, eh.

CT: If you had stayed at Nakamura Store, what would be your position?

HN: Oh, just like salesman man, eh. Olden time. Just like salesman.

So after that, I change to Nose Store. This order come from by telephone, see. I take order by phone. And then this to store-to-store, you see, this one. So what kind they need, they order. I take note and then everything arrange. And then after that by bicycle, on the bicycle just send this stuff to the store, you see. Or sometime big stop [big order], just same thing, you know, this wheel wagon, push wagon. Yeah. (Laughs) But most on the bicycle, you know. Behind, I make stuff eh, just pile up. I can deliver, you see.

CT: On two-wheel bicycle?

HN: Yeah, two-wheel bicycle. Yeah. Used to, young time, eh. Shee,

about 17, 18 year old. Young time.

CT: Where was Nose Store located?

HN: King and River Street. Now Nagao Shoten, present site over there.
[Now Musashiya] By River Street side.

CT: And how far would you deliver?

HN: Oh, most whole town I covered, you know. Till Liliha side to way down Moiliili, near University Street. Around there. So between that section, eh, some stores, most stores-to-store. And then every 15 days, and then end of month, boss give me note, bill, you know, store bill. I go this bill, I went collection store-to-store. (Laughs) So this amount must be correctly matched to the bill. Inside I get bag, you know, small bag.

Yeah, inside money, you know. (Laughs) And I get some kind of bill, you know, so many. And then each collection. So, receive it, and then amount together, inside this....so after finish, I return to boss this bag, money bag. So boss all figure, everything okay. Say, "Okay." So many months like this continue, you know. But I used to, eh. This wholesale store running all kind stuff. Store, or some kind book or some kind of pen, Japanese style material, stuff---paper material. Or, you know, fishing net material, or all kind of line. All kind, all kind line. Most town big store, see, they need. Most, they afford, you see. And I think his store is that time main store in Japan. Hiroshima. Big store, you see. So, they send to Honolulu, eh. So, over here distributor's agent just like, eh. So, all kinds of stuff get. See, but, section is small. And then sometime we arrange this stock upstairs, you know. But, big stuff upstairs, hand all push up, eh. [Gestures as if to lift up boxes] (Laughs) Hard time, you know. Olden time. No equipment.

CT: Yeah. Too heavy to carry.

HN: Yeah. Hand, most carry up. And then, everything arrange neatly because room is small, you see. Limited. So, anytime any kind orders, quick take out, you see. So, small but, you know, all kind stuff they have ready to deliver to customer.

CT: You know, before you went from Nakamura Store to Nose Shoten....you said there was negotiation. What kind negotiation?

HN: Oh. This position, and then wages, or how to work. All kind, eh. They tell me what kind I have to do, see, that time.

CT: So, what was your pay at Nose Store?

HN: Oh, about \$20, about, \$25 or something. One month, you know. Little bit better position.

CT: Did you have to buy your own food?

HN: Yeah. Only morning time, and then evening. Lunch time you know, just we have a restaurant together, boss, you know. We go restaurant and take lunch, eh.

CT: So, you had pay increase from \$10 or \$15 to \$25?

HN: Oh, yes. (Laughs)

CT: But, you had to buy your own breakfast and dinner. Still, was that better?

HN: Yeah, I think I have more time to study. Just stay in store. And then, watching stores same time. Phone call, I wait. Phone call, you see. And then, take order. And then, according to the order I arrange the stuff. And then, to deliver each store, you see. I have certain time, you know. And, during that time, [if] I have time, I read book. (Laughs)

CT: Did the owner mind? Did the owner feel that was okay?

HN: Yeah, yeah. Owner is okay, see. Owner, sometime boss went to Waipahu side or Ewa side. Anyway, countryside. Go around, he take order, you know. Certain days. That time, I watching store. And then, when I deliver order I close the door. You know, I lock the door store. (Laughs) And then, deliver. And then, come back, I open the store again, see. Only two men, you see. Boss and me. (Laughs) That's why more easy. (Laughs) Yeah. Anyway, small wholesale store. But, line is so many, you know, stuff. Yeah. Very wide line arrange, see.

CT: And, then, how long did you stay at Nose Shoten?

HN: About two years. About two years. And then, once I went to Hawaii island. Visit to my mother's graveyard. And, after come back...after... yes...I help the ice delivering service. This olden time, you know. Two horse, you know. Like in wagon. We drive horse, you see.

CT: Well, how come you didn't continue at Nose Store?

HN: Yeah, just how long I stay Hawaii, see, I don't know. See, suppose condition good, I like try to stay [to live and work on] Hawaii, Big Island. But, I never used to--[when] I went there [it was] most country, you know. Lonesome, you know. But, my uncle stay over there, you see. After one week, two week, but only plantation work, you see. So, during that time I visit my friend. He work at the cane field. So, I think, no. I think Honolulu much better because most young men, you see. Chance to learn English. But, in the country no chance--most Japanese group, you know. Plantation, eh. And then, hard work, with hoe. (Laughs) In the plantation. I work this field, you know. I meet my friend. So, after about one week or 10 days, I come back again.

CT: To Honolulu?

HN: Yeah, to Honolulu. And then, my friend advise me, "Shee, I work ice delivering. Every morning start, but most afternoon lay off. So, you have chance to more study." Then, yeah, we start about 4 o'clock in the morning, or little bit earlier. And then, go into the ice house and ready to ice--chop by saw. Ice saw.

CT: How big the ice blocks?

HN: Oh, about one block is 300 pound. Just by hook, eh. Stand up and turn and we rip this by hand saw in the ice house, you know. And then, mark, you know. We cut, eh, so many section. And then, this lay down, add then another. About 14 block every morning. Cut. Ready to drop in the wagon.

CT: Fourteen blocks? Each one 300 pound?

HN: Yeah, each one 300 pound. First time, I never used to, but, when used to more easy handling. So, very cold first time. But, working little while, all sweat come, you know.

CT: Ooh.

HN: Yeah. Work hard, eh. (Laughs) Saw. By saw. First time, I never used to. When we saw, you know, it's crooked, you know. (Laughs) But must straight come down, you know. But [when] I [got] used to, bumbai straight cut, you see.

CT: One man saw?

HN: Yeah. One man saw. Big saw, but one man, you know. Teeth very big, eh. Ice saw. So, we this stuff all drag in [the truck]--about 5 o'clock.

CT: One 300-pound block--how many?

HN: Fourteen.

CT: Fourteen 300-pound blocks, but how many smaller section you make from one?

HN: Oh, about six section you center cut. About--me making about 12-pound, 10-pound to 12-pound size. So, maybe this one make 24 piece. This one, divide. And one, about 10-pound to 12-pound size each cottage deliver, you know. One by one.

CT: For one house?

HN: Yeah, one house. Olden time, eh. And then, this last about one day. So, next morning, repeat, same thing. So, no Sunday, no holiday. Every day, just same thing--work. Same kind work. (Laughs)

CT: Where did the ice come from?

HN: This, you know, beer brewery. Same time they making [beer]--they making ice, you know. So, this ice maybe contract, or this boss used to buy this ice block. And then, to deliver to their own customer. So many hundred [customers].

CT: What was your boss' name?

HN: Oh, this, ah, just a minute. Oh, this first time Barnhart Ice Company.

CT: How do you spell that?

HN: Barnhart. Barn--B-U-R. Or B-A-R-N. Hart--H-A-R-T. Barnhart. This German, German boss, yeah, I think. Germanese name. Barnhart Ice Company. And, then, my driver...

[Another visitor calls at the door.]

HN: ...My driver hired over here. I'm the helper that time, eh.

CT: Who was the driver?

HN: I cannot recall now....Inaba. Mr. Inaba. Mr. Inaba is my driver's name. So, Mr. Inaba and me. I'm helper. Together, partner, you see. And then, this two men always one section's customer everyday we deliver, see. Under Mr. Barnhart's Ice Company.

CT: And, what section was this?

HN: Most, Nuuanu section to foot of Punchbowl. Lusitania, Prospect Street, and then Beretania Street; and to Kinau Street, Victoria Street. All around this section. Olden time, eh.

CT: So, does that mean that there were other drivers who had other sections?

HN: Yeah, other section. At that time, we have, I remember, 17 carts. Seventeen carts. All cover the Honolulu. All over Honolulu. You see. Some other ice delivering is Oahu Ice or Hawaiian Electric. But, I don't remember, only I know myself this Barnhart Company. But, one or two year--see, [Mr. Barnhart] quit this ice company.

CT: Mr. Barnhart?

HN: Yeah. And then, [Barnhart] give to the Mr. Inaba this section. So, Mr. Inaba's starting his own business. Running same section and he take care. That time I help him.

CT: What was your pay as a helper?

HN: About one months about \$30 most. But, I have about \$32 one month. Thirty-two dollars. One month, you know. Very small that time. Yes. And then, I have afternoon plenty time and I went tin shop.

CT: Tin shop.

HN: Tinsmith. Shop, you know. I learn technique, you know. How to handle this sheet metal work. You know, all kind bucket or panel, or you know, rain--we call gutter. Or all kind articles, you know, family use. We make hand-made, you know, most. Just by machine. Run machine and then sawed off. I learn partly time. Yeah. I learn. This located South, near by King Street. Mr. Ichioka running this tinsmith.

CT: Did you get paid?

HN: No, no. I never paid. Because I like learn to their technique, eh. So, I just, first time I don't know nothing, see. So, I clean, oil up machines, and then sometime I watch the store. And then, sometime help, you see, all kind job. I just help.

CT: Why did you want to learn?

HN: Oh, future. Maybe I can--if I smart know this job, I can learn maybe those work, eh. Myself. So, you know, even making one bucket first time I don't know, you see. But, [when] I was schoolboy time, you know, I learn, you know, all kind, we call, this Japanese...I cannot explain. This we call....

CT: Nihongo de i desu. [To say it in Japanese is okay.]

HN: Gigei, they call it. Gakujutsu kenkyu. That time, you know, shuko hour. Shuko hour is what I like to learn is certain hours. We make all kind like paper cut, you see. All kind of form or flowers, or even bucket--we draw bucket and then, you know, all trim, eh. Handle over here. And then, just like look like [bucket]. I recall. And then, boss say, "You like this kind tinsmith job?"

[Mr. Nakano says goodbye to visitor who had been talking to his wife.]

HN: So, boss said, "You try to make this bucket. Any kind you try to make." So, I don't know first time how to make. But, I young time I recall. So, just, you know, flat pavement. Concrete, you know, floor, by chalk. I draw this bucket form. Flat, long one, eh. So, most this one can. But, by ruler. Then, measurement, you know. Most, when, for instance, one feet high and then certain amount quantities water inside, or around circumstance, circle. How many inches. They show you. So, oh yeah. So, I measure, but so long, eh. (Laughs) So, I draw to the center and then by compass I make join. So, this one I make bucket form like this. So, by measurement they show the figure, you see. So, first, paper I make go around like this. And then, I make form and this I show boss. "Oh, oh. Very good. You make yourself. What you make. Go ahead, go ahead. Never mind. Go. You make yourself." So, I make paper form. "Go ahead. Over here. Material get." So, I cut the scissors and then make form, eh. Measurement. And then, just clip like this about quarter inches. And then, make round like this. "Oh, go ahead. Bottom. You need a bottom. Make bottom." And then, you know, stop area like this. About inches.

And then, make handle stuff. And, bumbai wire. Make handle. "Good. Very good. You okay. You have ability to go making. Very good," boss say. "So, you coming, continue." So, afternoon, everyday afternoon I go over there. (Laughs)

CT: How long?

HN: Oh, about year and a half continue, you know.

CT: And, what did you make?

HN: Yeah, about year and a half I continue. And after that, this Mr. Inaba, going to Japan, you know. So, I know when delivering together, you know somebody--Mr. Inaba's friend come to our customer section. He sit down on the wagon, eh. Oh, I think he [Mr. Inaba] going to Japan, that's why he [his friend] like his [Mr. Inaba's] position. I think maybe he [Inaba's friend] buy this whole customer, making so many hundred customers, you know. About three time, four time looking for [Mr. Inaba]. But, after that Mr. Inaba [said to me], "You buy this ice business and then you run yourself. I think certain make money because..." Oh, I forget to tell you after this boss changed [Barnhart], and Mr. Inaba take place, my wage advanced \$90 one month. Increase, you know.

CT: From \$32?

HN: Yeah. [Mr. Inaba said] "I know this circumstance little bit change, you see. So, I can pay you \$90 a month."

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CT: So, you were saying that your wages jumped from \$32 to \$90.

HN: Eh, \$32 to \$90. He running his own business, eh. That's why...

CT: He became the same position as Mr. Barnhart?

HN: Yeah, yeah.

CT: So, he had under him 17 drivers?

HN: Uhm. Yeah.

CT: Mr. Inaba had 17 drivers under him?

HN: Including 17 drivers. Yeah, one of drivers. And, he pay good money.

CT: No, was Mr. Inaba the top man, or was he one driver?

HN: Yeah, one of drivers. Seventeen.

CT: He was one of 17 drivers?

HN: Yeah, yeah. I work together under him.

CT: Okay.

HN: Yeah, but [when Mr. Barnhart owned the company] only company pay, you know, \$30. Two dollars Mr. Inaba pay me [extra]. (Laughs)

CT: Oh, I see.

HN: Most \$30, you know, helper. Every section same thing.

CT: Who paid you the extra \$60 then?

HN: Mr. Inaba paid. He own business. Yeah, Barnhart quit this business. And then, customer and then this horse and wagon altogether give to Mr. Inaba. So, Mr. Inaba [became an] independent ice peddler.

CT: Oh, I see. Independent. Not under the big company.

HN: No, no. Was independent because this Mr. Barnhart quit his business and then give it to each driver this section. See.

CT: So, every driver became independent.

HN: Yeah, most independent peddler maybe 17 one time come up, eh. (Laughs) So, one of this 17 drivers, Mr. Inaba, take care this Punchbowl section, and then Beretania Street. All section around there. About 600 customer, you know. And most every day we deliver. Certain [customers] one [day] after, one week--three, four times. We same section, you see. Always going around.

CT: Was there any problem with some other driver coming into your section, or you going to somebody else section, you know? Maybe on the border-line?

HN: No, no. No trouble, see. What section--what customer come, or we go, you see. Deliver. Or only one customer certain section, or you take care of this customer moved here [they referred customers to each other]. See, so, this same section always going. This driver take care, you see. So, olden time, no trouble, yeah?

CT: Were the other drivers Japanese?

HN: Yeah, most Japanese. Portuguese people, yeah. Driver. Smart, you know. Take horse, yeah. After 1920 to 1921 all change [from] horse--by automobile. Model-T coming up that time. So, we start by machine, eh. More easier. (Laughs) No need horse, eh? See, [with horses] we have to ready going out, we have to feed horse first. But, [with car] this garageman take care, you know. But, most 5 o'clock we start, early, you know. Ready to connect wagon and harnesses to wagon. Then, to come to the ice house. And then, after make breakfast...about 15 minutes, 30 minutes, we take, then we start to deliver, you know. And then, about half past 10 to 11 o'clock, all finish and coming back.

CT: This was with the horse?

HN: Yeah, with the horse that time. When by truck no need like this, yeah. More easy. Just drive in garage. (Laughs) All pau, you see.

CT: To deliver, how many customers in one day you deliver?

HN: Oh, most about, we have altogether about 500 or more.

CT: Everyday?

HN: No, no. Everyday about--I figure about 300. More or less. Sometime, you know, customer more because one after day, or one week four time, they need, you know. Ice, big chunk, or like this. So, small block ice, you know, most every day they need, you know. Most family, every day. And some section or some stores, you know, big chunk one time inside, eh. In the icebox. And then, this last two days or three days. And then, we deliver again, see. So, sometime not everyday, you see. So, average about 300 customers everyday. But, at most we have about 500 more or less, you know, customer, you see.

CT: So, how many time did you have to refill to deliver to 300, could you carry all 300 one time?

HN: No, no, no. About, you know, about 10-pound or 12-pound block. Small block. Just hook, eh. Just behind step we leave, you see.

CT: Oh, behind the step?

HN: Yes. But, customer must wake up early.

(Laughter)

HN: Otherwise, all melt away, you see. Or, sun hit the ice, eh. All just melt away. They have some customers used to put outside their container, you know. Or some customer, you know, wake up slow, you see, then must some bag or some kind cover get, you see. I put around. Just inside the container. (Laughs) So, take time, but you know, each customer like this. Must neatly handle because for customer taste, eh. Otherwise, we have lose the customer, too, you see. (Laughs) So, we must take care. But, this melting away, you see. That's why hard time, eh. (Laughs) Sometime big chunk, sometime small chunk, no can help, you know. Cut time, eh. Or, this ice straight no can cut, you see. So, sometime we icepick. Divide in two. But some section come small, some section quite big, you know. But, average we make equal amount. So, we have very (Laughs) hard time, I think over there.

CT: You mean sometime the customer ice is small?

HN: Yeah, sometime, small, eh. Sometime big.

(CT laughs)

HN: Sometime complain get. But, well, we adjust you see.

CT: How many times you have to come back to the ice plant to pick up...

HN: About two time. But, first load is quite big, you see. Full load. Sometime customer's case, we leave more chunk going out, you see. So, no 'nough, we come back to the ice plant. And then, load up again. And then, deliver to. And then all finish one days. About 11 o'clock all everything finish. So, that kind business we call ice peddler, according that the so many drivers come up, you see. And then, start their own business, you see.

After that they use automobile, truck. More easy, and more quick can deliver, see. Yeah. Before only horse--horse itself know the customer's place. No need driver, see. Horse used to just stop and we deliver, eh. And then finish. Horse know. Horse start going. We sit down behind the cart, eh. And hold the chunk. We jump off and deliver to customer-to-customer according to the street. So many customers, you see. So, we go behind step and put, come back again, horse stay there. And then, we sit down, we, "Go ahead." So, this horse itself going, you see. More easy. They used to long time, you see. But, truck, take place of the horse. We must drive and then, but more handy, more quick, eh, finish.

CT: So, even if you have driver for the car, still faster?

HN: Yeah. Faster. This continue till 1923. After that, Mr. Inaba going to Japan. So, I take after him.

CT: Okay, before we talk about that, I wonder if we can go back to when you live on Halekauila Street, starting from 1914. What kind of neighborhood was it? Who was your neighbors?

HN: Neighbors?

CT: Japanese, Portuguese...

HN: Yeah, most Japanese and Hawaiians, no? Hawaiians most around there. Or some Chinese running stores. Most Chinese running stores.

CT: What kind store?

HN: Oh, just grocery stores. Some Japanese they own stores.

CT: Hawaiians, what were they doing?

HN: Hawaiians, most husband working office, eh, I think. I don't remember very good, but most lady haul big stuff like this, eh.

CT: Lady?

HN: Yeah. Gee, first time I came Hawaii, I see Hawaiian fellas so big, stomach like this. And bodies all hooooo...(Laughs) I astonished, you know. Yeah.

CT: So, did you spend much time at home?

HN: Yes, stay home time, eh. Most, I try to read English book. Sometime I feel tired. But, you know, sometime friend, acquaintance and then most nighttime, most we have leisure time, eh. And then, we talk together. Or, we play together.

CT: Play what?

HN: Oh, most nighttime we play checker, you know? (Laughs) Daytime, Sunday, or holiday this friends have time, you see. Sunday, whole day, must I have to work, you know.

CT: Deliver ice?

HN: Yeah, deliver ice. I have no chance to play. But, afternoon all right, you see. So, we going to play tennis. Or sometime we play baseball. So many friends, eh.

CT: These friends Japanese?

HN: Yeah, most Japanese. Came from Japan, you know. So many, you know. That's why, we had to practice talk English, eh. Speak English. But, when we play tennis we learn certain word, you see. Certain language. But, we have no tennis court, so, we sometime on the street we practice. When we used to better racketing (Laughs) we go to Kapiolani Park. Only over there, four, five court get, you see. And then, open chance we play, see.

CT: Where did you buy your food when you used to live Halekauwila?

HN: Hm. We have all stores around there. So many Japanese stores. So, cook myself. Or sometime together, my friend together we cook. And eat together.

CT: Did your friends live close by?

HN: Yes. So many friends only near by. Mr. Yamane. Kasuke Yamane. Mr. Masaichi Kitagawa or...I don't recall. He's my good friend now. He stay in Kalihi. Sakai. Mr. Sakai. Mr. Ohara. Amimoto. Nakamura. So many. Hard to recall.

CT: You have good memory.

(HN laughs)

CT: Did you ever talk with the Hawaiian people?

HN: Hawaiian, Hawaiian-speaking?

CT: Yeah.

HN: Friend?

CT: Yeah, at that time.

HN: Oh, just neighbor sometime we talk, eh. But, [I was] not so smart English. Only "good morning" or something. Two, three speaking, eh. Not so going into detail. (Laughs) I like talk but, you know, no can, you see. But, they very good neighbor, you know. Most Hawaiian people very friendly, you see. Yeah. Some Chinese fellas running restaurant. Yeah. So, we used to live same section. So, you know, good friend, you see. No can talk, but our feeling is very friendly, you know. (Laughs)

CT: With the Chinese and Hawaiians?

HN: Yes, Chinese and Hawaiians. Altogether. All mingle up. (Laughs)

CT: Sometime, get trouble, get fight?

HN: No, no. No trouble. No trouble. Most they come together and talk. They talk to me. But, sometime hardly understand, eh. But, used to, you know. Very friendly, you see. They know [I] recently came from Japan and no can speak, you know. They know. But, they talk friendly. I'm feeling, eh. Sometime I see, "Hey, hey." But, I only answer, "Hey." But, the feeling, you see, friendly.

CT: Did they get their ice from somebody else?

HN: Oh, they get somebody delivers around there. Or nearby ice house. They go get themselves, you see. Yeah. But, most somebody deliver that section, eh. Yeah. We have certain section, you see. So, all finish other section we, never mind that section. Somebody take care, you see.

CT: That time when you live in Halekauwila Street, who was your landlord?

HN: Landlord. I don't remember landlord. But, most over here ne. Have Yanagihara Shoten. Yanagihara Store. I living upstairs, you know. So, under the block they open the store. And, so many some kind of store or restaurant. But, I remember this boss of Yanagihara Store. He most take care, you see. So, sometime my rent I give to him. But, only one small room, you know. Only single man stay. And then, this rental is only very small, you know.

CT: How much?

HN: About \$3 to \$5, or sometime \$7 like this, eh. Not too much.

CT: And you can cook inside the room?

HN: Oh, yeah, that time some section small stove get, eh. Can cook, you see.

CT: But, not your own. Share with other people?

HN: Yeah. Outside is kitchen get, you see. So, they can, you know, burn stick, wood, you know. That kind get, already. Downstairs and the upstairs too. Kitchen section get, you see. So, in the room, small this oil stove, olden time, get.

CT: In your own room?

HN: Yeah, own room. One. And then, outside get big firewood burn, eh. And then, cook, you see. That kind get, too. Big section. And then, sink.

CT: This is Magoon Block?

HN: No, no. This Halekauwila Street. They still get this building. Yeah, Halekauwila and South Street. Corner. Makai side. Building get. Still get. (Laughs)

CT: From 1914?

HN: Yes, yes.

CT: Maybe bumbai you can show me.

HN: Yeah, sure. This on South and Halekauwila Street. Still get this building. And then, one section is now gasoline station. This corner is Yamane Store before. Two side all cottage standing. And then, those street is covered by kiawe trees. All grow up. And then, wagon pass only center, you know. Both side kiawe trees all grow up, eh. Branch all come up on the street. Cover up. (Laughs) Wagon, horse, just lugging wagon, eh. Just center all open. Just center because two side all kiawe tree grow up, you see.

CT: What if two wagon, opposite way, what happen? Can pass?

HN: Can pass. But, some section, you know. (Laughs) All cover 'em up, eh. Ah, this kiawe trees. Yeah, even this central post office around there. About 1914 or 1915 years time, eh. All kiawe trees all grow up, you know, that section. And then, after First World War finish time, or during wartime, you know, American soldiers they practice war scene you know. Just Kaiser's statue make...

CT: What kind statue?

HN: Kaiser's. German Kaiser statue make. They blown up this ground. Yeah. Just center over there. And, this we call King Street, and then Richard Street. Yeah? That corner is central post office. That's all open, you see. Bushes over there. And near is Kamehameha statue, eh. The court. The courthouse. Right next is all open. Growing. Kiawe tree. (Laughs) I remember.

CT: When you live in Halekauwila did you usually cook yourself?

HN: Yes, yes.

CT: Sometime you eat together with your friends?

HN: Hm, friends. Yes. This quite long time, about 60 years ago.

(CT laughs)

CT: How about Portuguese living over there? Not too many?

HN: Not too many. Not too many, but some stay. Some Chinese, some Hawaiian. Most Hawaiian stay, no? And then, Portuguese fellas, most Punchbowl side. You know, they stay. Prospect Street. Lusitania Street. Around there or up Fort Street. Most Portuguese fellas. We can supply, deliver this ice most those customer. So, I remember.

CT: And, you talk to them in English?

HN: Yeah, yeah. After that, I can talk little bit. So, and some Portuguese fellas on the Queen Street from Cooke Street to Kewalo side this section, two side, eh. Most Portuguese fellas own their houses. Two side.

CT: Any Filipino?

HN: No, I don't remember that time Filipino. I don't know. Most Portuguese fellas. This section all around here [present home] Portuguese owner. Next door, this Hawaiian. Next, other side, cottage all Portuguese own. They even over here, Portuguese. I bought from Portuguese lady, you see.

CT: This Queen Street?

HN: Yeah, Queen Street. Both side Queen Street till to Cooke Street all most Portuguese fellas occupied cottage. Yeah, they own most, you know. So, even Portuguese church along the Queen Street. They have, still today have, see. Because Portuguese center, eh. That's why church get, you see. And then this side, one more over there. Waimanu and then Kamani Street, corner. Church get, you see. But, they condemn. Warehouse get, see. Before most Portuguese fellas stay. I know Frank Silva, this Portuguese, own this Ward and Queen, corner, you know. Now, Central Pacific Bank over there, running. But, before owner, Frank Silva. And then, Mr. Henry Fuji bought over there about 30, 35 years ago. That time price is very low, eh? Yes, only after the Second World War, everything coming up, you see.

CT: Okay, can you tell me about the young men association?

HN: Oh, yeah. Young Men's Association. Yes.

CT: Starting from, you said 1916?

HN: Yeah, 1915, 1916. I remember, was organize. Young Men's Association.

CT: Who organize?

HN: Oh, Mr. Harunori Ohara, Mr. Shodaimon Amimoto. Yamane Kasuke. Kitagawa Masaichi. Hm. Nakano, myself. And, so many... Nakamura Masaichi too. Sakai Koyata. Oh, I hard to recall. I know the man, but I cannot recall his name, too.

CT: So, how did you first organize, and what was the purpose?

HN: Oh, those fellas organize, and then we call together members, you know. So, first time 60. Bumbai gradually increase, at last 90 people, we count.

CT: In one year?

HN: No, about two, three years, I think.

CT: What was the purpose of the Young Men Association?

HN: Oh, because we together acquainted each other. And then, you know, most young time, doing wrong idea, you know.

CT: Wrong idea?

HN: Yeah, so, must we together, play together. And talk together. And then, each other we acquainted and the same time we improve our, you know, friendlyship. So, we try to learn good English.

[Another visitor comes in. Tape stops, then starts again.]

CT: Okay, so we were talking about Young Men Association. And you mentioned the people who started it. And then, you were saying that the purpose is to improve friendship and learn English.

HN: Oh, yes. This main point, you know. We try to better English to learn. So, we hire our own language teacher. Her name is Miss Warner. Stay at Lusitania Street.

CT: Miss Warner?

HN: Yes. Stay at Lusitania Street. And, this night school, you know, we open night school and three-night week. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, about two hours, teach us. Classmate about 15. This continue about six months or more. I don't remember very well.

CT: Who paid for the teacher?

HN: Oh, this association member. We, I don't know, maybe about membership fee, I think, 25 cents or 50 cents each. We collection.

CT: One month? One year?

HN: Yeah, one month. And then, pay to the teacher. We bought book ourselves. And there is Halekauwila Street, between Kewalo Street, South Street. One fishermen's home, big cottage get. And when fishermen's meeting, they come together over there. But, most they usually open

up. And then one minister stay over there, you know. Quiet, old man. But, other section is all open, you see. We use this for association meeting room. And then, same time, teacher coming over there. And, teach us.

CT: So, you had class three times a week? Meeting, how many times a week?

HN: No, not so often. So, same time, over there make library too. But, we [have] most Japanese magazine or book, you know. Most. Because those member most main stuff is came from Japan. Not familiar with English speaking. That's why they use to read Japanese books. So, we make library. So, somebody like lend, take home, read. Then, finish, put it back.

CT: Was there any age requirement?

HN: Oh, quite young men, no? Most younger. About 10, 12 year; most family boys come together, you see. Not member, even come in, you see. Together. So, we try to membership boys, eh. Each family we first time visit, and then speak to the young man. So, yeah, at that time, we run to the way up Beretania Street, what we call, Alapai section. We all visit.

CT: And, Kakaako section?

HN: Yeah, Kakaako section we include. (Laughs) So many wide section, yeah? So, boys almost 90 we name, you know. But, most meeting time only few nearby section come together.

CT: Was there a limit that you couldn't be over 25, or something like that?

HN: No limitation, no. Because that time we only about 17, 18 year old, you see. Most [were] like this age, you see. And, more age [the older] people, never join because they work themself, you see. That's why, hard to come meeting.

CT: Whose idea was this?

HN: Oh, this ours idea. This most....

CT: Ohara, Yamane...

HN: Yeah, Ohara, Yamane, Amimoto, Kitagawa, Sakai, Nakamura. I cannot recall. I know this now running fishing market at Alapai. This--I cannot recall.

CT: And besides the language class, English language class, what else did you do? And lending the book?

HN: Yeah, reading over there book. And then, sometime practice fencing. Yes. Play checkers, you know. Some section. And then, most daytime, they organize baseball team and play at, you know, Pohukaina School.

Nearby Pohukaina School. Atkinson Park, we call. Over there, big opening. That's why we can play over there baseball together, young men, eh.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 3-50-2-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hisao Nakano (HN)

May 19, 1978

Kakaako, Oahu, Hawaii

BY: Chad Taniguchi (CT)

CT: This is an interview with Mr. Hisao Nakano at his house in Kakaako and today is Friday, May 19, 1978. Mr. Nakano, last time we talked about several things and you mentioned about the Young Men's Association. I wanted to know how long did the association last?

HN: Oh, about a year 1918, 1919, I remember. Because I start that time ice delivering service. Yes. So, sometime business hard to get [free] time, you know. That's why. So, I remember around there 1918, 1919. I remember.

CT: So, you stopped at that time, but did the Young Men's Association continue?

HN: Yes. still continue. Then somebody [else] take care. Till Second War. And after that Kakaako get association, community association come up. So most young men join the Kakaako Young Men's Association.

CT: So at that time of the war then, the Young Men's Association stopped and then after the war Kakaako Community Association began?

HN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Began. So somebody take care [after the war], see. Mr. Masuda [who lived in] Kakaako before.

CT: Anything else about the Young Men's Association that you would like to tell?

HN: During year we continue this association, we sometime young men come together, raise up fund, you know.

CT: Fund?

HN: Yeah, every year. We make shibai, see? You know, some kind of act? [Association] members, you know, just like actor, yeah. And then about New Year time, about three, four days continue to show on the stage. And then we have some kind of donation for Kakaako's members. So, with that fund we continue to keep on this association.

CT: This is the Young Men's Association?

HN: Yes. I remember till 1918, 1919...so after that I engage in the business most time. I have no chance to join the Young Men's.

CT: Where did you have the shibai?

HN: This shibai, you know, somebody show us how to act. This man's name I forget. Anyway, two prominent actor, you know. Before actor. But they know all kind acting, see. So we learn about one week, two weeks before New Year's come. We all practice. And then we show the act about one week sometime. (Laughs)

CT: Same act?

HN: No, no. Different act.

CT: Every day different act?

HN: Every day different...Yeah. (Laughs) So first time, main thing we practice. One, two different acting. But they know, they already understand how to act, so maybe one day, two days extra shows. Oh, just one hour, two hour practice, then we on the stage plays. Sometime like that. Very interesting. (Laughs) Good time. Young man, eh. (Laughs)

CT: Can you remember what the name of the play, or what kind of play you put on?

HN: I don't remember. But, this olden times, we call sofuren. Sofuren means, you know, family's act. Family show, you know.

CT: S-O-F-U-R-E-N?

HN: This means families'acting, you know. I have poor English that's why hard to explain to you. (Laughs)

CT: The shibai is about Japan?

HN: Yeah. Japan. Most Japan's events, you know. They show through the acting. Sometime very comedy kind. Sometime very sad show scene. All kinds. So many actors get. Kakaako Association. Young Men's... (Laughs)

CT: Who came to watch the shibai?

HN: Oh, most Kakaako people, eh. Residents. Because only once a year we get together, and they enjoy act like this, you see. So many young people come together and then their parents or sisters, brothers, they come.

CT: How many people do you remember coming?

HN: Oh...I think 300, 400 people coming. So full, you know, this show house.

CT: Was it only Japanese that came?

HN: Yeah, some Japanese, some haoles. Friends they know [about it and] come in, see. This no admittance [fee], no more, you see. Just donations, eh. So everybody come see and enjoy. Because New Year time, eh.

CT: What about Portuguese and Hawaiian, did they come?

HN: Oh, they come too. See nearby. Most mingle up, you see. Some Chinese. Kakaako section, all come together.

CT: The performance was in Japanese though.

HN: Yeah, Japanese show. About three, four days last, you know. We first time three days, but after three days over, you know they [audience] like something doing. So, two days more extra, but only one hour, two hour practice that's enough, you see. They [actors] use to, they understand how to act, you see. And so everybody enjoy. (Laughs)

CT: I know you mention that in 1927 you began to go to Hongwanji?

HN: Hongwanji? Yes. Hongwanji.

CT: Did you go before 1927?

HN: No, before I don't remember. Because too young yeah? My neighbor is Hongwanji people, you see. So, always he talk about [it to] me, so maybe I get affection from him. (Laughs) So, this Hongwanji, YBA [Young Buddhist Association]. Reverend Yasuimine, he come to me because this YBA coming up. "So, you running business now, maybe you can donation to YBA." So I gave. So that time olden time I make \$100 donation. YBA. That's why I join the YBA, you know, member. For four, five years always letter coming, but I busy, see, delivering business, ice business. So most I never show up. But still I join up YBA. Today only Hongwanji kyodan, we call.

CT: So after YBA, then you became part of the kyodan. And you felt you wanted to join that Hongwanji on Pali Highway.

HN: Till today, I join. [I'm] just a member Hongwanji temple.

CT: You know in 1928, there was a case with Miles Fukunaga. I wonder you remember that?

HN: I remember. Yes, that case.

CT: What do you remember about that?

HN: That time, so many rumor, you know. All in the town, eh. But I don't remember exactly, but anyway one child, Mister...I cannot recall this. He was killed by Fukunaga. That's why he jail and bumbai hang in that case. Too bad this case. First time Japanese boy like this. Very sorry for his family. Yeah, I remember. This Japanese boy, that's

why we thinking, you know, about this case.

CT: What did you think at that time?

HN: That time, so many rumor, you see. Most people excited, eh. And then people said "there is somebody hiding, there is wrong doing." Because I'm still young that's why I'm not so much attention. But, I feel very sorry, you know, da kine case.

CT: You feel sorry for...

HN: Yeah, their [Fukunaga] family, and then this haole family, see. Because small child killed, see. Too bad. First time that kind of case happen. That time everybody excited.

CT: Was there a meeting in Kakaako?

HN: No, no. Because Fukunaga family stay near Beretania, near Alapai, around there. Yeah, Alapai and Roland Lane. I have not paid so much attention. But this case I still remember. So many days they spent to find out. This boy hide out, they don't know first time. And then, so many rumors, "some place they hide, some place they stay, so many letters drop in, and they mark KKK," da kine, I remember see. But mostly rumor, see. But, very sorry their family.

CT: Then you told me the last time that in 1929 you bought this property? Who did you buy it from?

HN: Oh, this Mrs. Antonio Santos. Portuguese lady. Because she was widow, and then so many children, so she laid up, eh. And my wife very friendly because wife make her dress to fix or sewing.

CT: Your wife use to fix Mrs. Santos' dress?

HN: So, good friends, see. That's why she [Mrs. Santos] likes money, and she likes selling this property. So, me, arrange this property, how to buy and sell, see. Yeah, about 1929.

CT: Do you remember how much you bought it for?

HN: Yeah. I think about that time...\$3,300 cash, I paid to her.

HN's Wife: Cheap, no?

(Laughter)

HN's Wife: Yeah, now no can. Now big money.

HN: One square feet about 60-something [cents], you know. I think so. Because over here 5,000 square feet. So one square feet, 60 cents. And that time my neighbor, this Hawaiian-Chinese neighbor, bought his lot about seven cents a square. But I bought here 60 cents, or something, maybe 66 cents.

CT: You bought over here for 66 cents? And what about your neighbor?

HN: Neighbor about seven cents, square feet.

CT: From who?

HN: I don't know. But [when] I bought here already the neighbor had built the home. And he said seven years already pass, so, I think this one [building next door] more than 60 years old.

CT: Did you think that was a lot of money at that time?

HN: Oh, that time lots of money. But Mr. Nakai is manager at Central Pacific Bank before, at King Street nearby Maunakea, King Street. I draw the money from bank. So manager said, "Oh this Kakaako section, name not so much good--you no buy this location."

I already promise this lady. I take lady to bank. So I like cash to pay her. So Mr. Nakai arrange cash to give this widow, Mrs. Santos. But that time Mr. Nakai says, "How about tax, maybe this tax about \$50 cost you. So, you buy and sell. So you fellas, let's talk about tax, divide half-and-half."

So I ask lady, "You like pay tax? Must pay tax \$25 each."

"No, no. I never pay, no pay one cents," [said the lady].

So I told the manager, Mr. Nakai, "She no like pay tax, so I pay everything."

"Ah, you...look, only one minute you lose \$25," [said Nakai].

"No, never mind. Already me I keep on this story come from over here. So, I like settle down today everything. So, even I lose \$50 never mind. I pay."

"Okay. I arrange." Mr. Nakai--at once, you see.

So, I settle down.

CT: Did Mrs. Santos ask you to buy, or did you ask Mrs. Santos to sell?

HN: Yeah, like sell, you see.

CT: So she asked you?

HN: Yeah. She talk together, see. So I arrange to pay cash to Mrs. Santos.

CT: Were you thinking of buying a piece of land, anyway?

HN: Yes. And, she have so many children, you know. Everything settle down buy and sell and the deed, make eh? And then after that you know

their children they ask, "Sure you pay money or buy the land? I like see the deed or title."

"Oh, everything all fix, your mama know."

But one by one, the children like money, you know. This mama's money. Because so many children, they like their shares from mama, see. Mama give nothing that's why, eh.

CT: How old were the children?

HN: All grown up. Some policeman, boys. Ten children.

CT: Did Mrs. Santos have another piece of land to live on?

HN: No, I don't know. But as soon as I paid over here, they move to the McCully. Fern Street. Once or two times I visit her.

CT: At that time when you bought your property, did you have a house on top already?

HN: Yeah. Old one. Already. So, as soon as I move in this house, I extension behind kitchen about 12 feet, 10 feet by 12 feet extension. And same time roof right through. That time, you know, depression in Hawaii. That's why carpenter no job, you know. They sell basket of flowers. They like sell.

CT: Carpenter?

HN: Yeah, carpenter. No job, you see. So, I bought lumber. So many lumber, you know. I figure myself to extension only kitchen wall. But he happen to come sell flowers, and ask my wife, eh, "What you doing this carpenter. Who carpenter coming?"

"No carpenter. Only for house extension," [said wife]. So this carpenter he like work himself, see. So, she talk to this carpenter. So he help to extension. She help lumber, hold see. I engage in ice delivery, no chance to make like this. So this carpenter only one man, she [wife] help.

CT: You paid the carpenter?

HN: Yes. And then total, I figured about \$800 cost. I figure first time \$300, but the carpenter said, "Maybe on the roof must be extension right through. Look more big house." So I think so. So I bought some more lumber. I order. And then I figure myself, see. So many. And then this carpenter say, "Oh, you figure right, right material. That's why if I mistake cut, that much this material short, you see." Very particular, you know. Oh, this kind of work very hard, see.

So bumbai he say, "I think I'm carpenter that's why you figure some houses, material how much need. Suppose you figure, I think, no lose too much. I think we together work for this contract and we build somebody's house. And you figure all time."

"No, no. Me, entirely different. Only myself I figure."

"Oh, if you figure right that's why no lose too much. Sure make money."

HN's Wife: Are no. Nande mo work hard no? Two men ga. Yome-san wo no?
Thirty pair me-ra sewa yattari. Yome-san to boy to wife. Thirty pair,
marry sashita, you know. Too much hataraita. Futari ga. (Laughs)
[We've worked hard together. We've matched 30 pairs of husbands and
wives--both of us.]

CT: Plenty grandchildren, then.

HN's Wife: Friend ga too much oru yo? [We have a lot of friends.]

CT: That carpenter was Japanese?

HN: Japanese.

HN's Wife: Mo are shindoru, yo. [He already died.]

HN: Yeah. That's long time ago, eh.

HN's Wife: Me-raga [we are] old, you know. No make [haven't died], see.
Lucky no. Nada [other] people haa [already] hard, no can. Me 81, eh.
This one 78.

HN: That time. Only I am 29 year old, see. She's 30, or 31.

HN's Wife: ...me work hard, see. Carpenter me helper, any kind. Too much
momona [heavy] before. Oh, big, big.

CT: 1930 your first child born?

HN's Wife: Yeah, yeah.

CT: George?

HN's Wife: Yeah. Yeah. Sanjyuroku [1936].

HN: Yes, I adopted him.

CT: George was adopted?

HN's Wife: Number two Ronald.

HN: Number two Ronald adopted too. I have no real child. But I...

HN's Wife: But they good children though.

HN: As soon as they were born we adopted. Once I daku-daku like that [hold
the baby]. I'm sorry [to have] somebody [else] take care [of the baby],

you know. If I take care be all right. But, if I no take care maybe somebody instead of me take care, you see. I'm feeling so bad eh? So, I like raise up this child. (Laughs) But [George] had brother about 11, see. So too many child, eh, olden time.

CT: Eleven children?

HN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Eleven children, brothers. So this last one I take, take care, you see.

HN's Wife: Lucky, no?

CT: How did you know the family?

HN's Wife: Papa make...

HN: This Mrs....now paralyze natteru, Palama ni oru. [Now this person is paralyzed, living in Palama.] Midwife, eh?

HN's Wife: Ah, midwife bring. Midwife. Yeah, I don't know name already.

CT: Midwife brought the baby to you?

HN: Yeah, yeah. She take care all time, children.

HN's Wife: Nobody take care, no. She like to bring over here.

HN: Yeah. So many children, you see. Hard to take care, eh. Only widow, this lady.

HN's Wife: This lady money no pay, too much baby get. But us pay all.

HN: She's husband make, you see. She's husband was a good tailor.

CT: Tailor?

HN: Working at haole McInerny store. Tailor, you know. Children too many.

HN's Wife: Pololoi no? So bring [children] over here.

HN: So midwife bring us and she [wife] take care. As soon as born, she bring down about two, three weeks.

HN's Wife: Two, three months, no sleep nighttime, daytime. Hot water bag before.

HN: She take care, you know. We have friend doctor at Haleiwa. By telephone, eh, how to take care. Show me, show us. And so, she [wife] understand how to take care.

HN's Wife: You folks no more baby, eh? Mo' betta adopt bumbai, bumbai, not now. Me 36 year time after operation. That time this boy [George] was one, two years old. Batten, no, love already children, yeah. Too much.

HN: No difference.

HN's Wife: Now today Friday George day off. Saturday off. Sunday off.

HN: Just you before you come, George came.

HN's Wife: "Otosan, Okasan!" [Mother! Father!] He say.

(HN and Wife laugh)

HN's Wife: Grandchildren come. Wife come. And something all take home. Us buy 'em come. Order, you know. I take order, see. No five cents give me. (Laughs)

CT: So that midwife bring the baby to you.

HN: Yes. Bring up and then...

CT: Did she know that you wanted a baby?

HN: No, no.

CT: Why did she bring to you?

HN's Wife: Ah, Nakano know though [the midwife knew Mr. Nakano]. Nakano good man, eh. That's how everybody talk. "You folks no more children, mo' betta keep," [said the midwife].

HN: This lady was churchman. Sometime midwife.

CT: Church?

HN: Yeah, churchman.

CT: Hongwanji?

HN: No, no. Christian church. Kakaako Mission. [When] I came from Japan 1916. This close to Queen Street. Kakaako Mission, you know. Right behind cottage, you know. She stay over there.

HN's Wife: Okubo.

HN: Yeah. Mrs. Okubo. Her name [midwife] is Mrs. Okubo. And then this haole lady church...Henderson. So many girls staying together, see. So, Mrs. Okubo was saying, "Now they have meeting. So many girls in there. Some kind of about Bibles class. So you go in only few people. You go in there. You come to study English that's why. Go, go inside. No hesitate." No. I see so many girls. I hate to go in that class.

So Miss Henderson come out, "Come in. No hesitation. Come in. There is class now. Bible class. Just beginning now, come inside."

No. I no like go inside there. Because I hardly understand English that's why. "Oh, I have study little bit Japanese language, but not

Tokyo style. I stayed Hiroshima long time," she say.

CT: Mrs. Henderson? Haole lady, study Japanese?

HN: She open big mouth, "So de godansuke nonta!"

HN's Wife: Hiroshima talk.

HN: Hoo. I afraid. She talk Japanese completely. This Hiroshima style. I more scared, you know. So I come back to my home.

(HN and Wife laugh)

CT: What she say?

HN: "So de godansuke nonta." Hiroshima people talking this way. Language, you know...

CT: What that means though, that one?

HN: "So and so..." that means "story beginning." Oh, she smart [speak in] Japanese. I hated it more going to the room.

CT: Is that where you met Mrs. Okubo?

HN: Yeah, yeah, that time I know.

CT: So that's why she know you. And then bumbai she bring baby to you.

HN: Yes. I used to so many time see Mrs. Okubo. And then we have her friend, too, our acquaintance. Bumbai she know our family in more detail. She understand. We have no children, that's why maybe my friends told to her.

Born certificate [birth certificate]. Before they all recorded, they show what parents, who adopted. But after my second son, Ronnie time, after the Second War, they never show this relationship, adoption.

CT: The real parents, they don't show?

HN: No, no. I think that way most no trouble. Wife's sister seven get. And then George side, about 11 get, see. So they cannot come together. More trouble, you see. That's why.

HN's Wife: [I knew] George's mama [natural mother] and the family. I know, but I no like adopt-time meet lady. Mama no come my house, I no go her house. Md betta, you know, [otherwise] trouble, eh?

CT: That time, that lady [George's natural mother] live in Kakaako, too?

HN: Yeah, yeah. Too many children, see. She was widow, you see. Hard to take care. Midwife they know, they understand.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HN: This all kind story...

CT: To me very interesting, you know. Because Kakaako before had plenty people.

HN's Wife: My friend plenty though.

CT: So how people live together, your story we want to know.

HN's Wife: Last time meeting us go. Kakaako Association, eh. Little-more 300 people go.

HN: Come together, yeah. Every individual all separate--Kaimuki, Kaneohe, Kailua...

HN's Wife: But they all come, you know.

HN: Once they come together, you know. Very fine, you see. They have meeting together.

CT: You know the story you told me just now about you adopting George because their family [had] too many children and cannot take care. Did that happen a lot or do you know if it happened with other families?

HN: Yes. Some other families, too. I know so many families, see.

CT: In Kakaako?

HN: Yeah, in Kakaako. We talk not too much.

HN's Wife: Batten no. Adopt time, eh. One year, two year George time. Us go some Kakaako camp. One girl, one boy marry, us make see. That time this mama [George's natural mother] come see us.

HN: Oh, yes. This wedding, this ceremony, you see. Wedding party. Mama stay nearby. But who adopted her son, she like know, eh, she like know. But that time she secretly ask what kind of personality, or what kind of people [we are]. But they know, they understand. We never talk together because this midwife everything take care, you see. Yeah. So, if we have any kind of relationship, sometime trouble get, you see. Everything clearly cut off, you see. This for I think, for children, for George's personality, you see. So I don't touch too much other side. Just rear this boy alone. Just like my own son. Take care, eh. But, he grown up, he like know. This same thing everybody. He like know. I explain. But I no go too deep. Too deep not so much good, see. For privacy. So, just what I know, I tell him. He understand. And then his certificate show who is father or mother, you see. Clearly show. But after that the Second War, this record everything, you know, even adopt, they never show.

CT: Then 1937 about, you sold your ice. Why did you sell?

HN: Yes. Because I figure during ice business bumbai as long as I strong enough I can continue this business. But bumbai I come aged, this no holiday, no Sunday, you see. Every just same time morning time about at least half past four I must wake up. And then, after half past five, I deliver to every customer about one day 300, almost 400. Because I 500 something customer get, you see. So two men just deliver. About 12 o'clock or before we all complete, finish delivering.

CT: So you thought if you come old then...

HN: ...no can continue this kind of business. But, already that time, you know, electrical, refrigeration system, ice box. Electrical ice box come up in market. And then some customer buy and discontinue [the ice] service. So, this very convenience for family, but each family they [will be able to] afford this refrigeration system, you know. So bumbai myself this kind of business all shut down. How I continue to living? (Laughs) So I think, eh. I study electrician.

CT: At that time you were studying, did you actually stop selling ice? Did you sell your business?

HN: Continue. Business, I continue. But, I sold this business about 1937 and four years before, I began to study electrical lesson, you know, a vocational school in Kalihi. Nighttime, night course, you know. Only about two hours, but this teacher, Mr. Meyers was very good, you know. He advise me, "You come 30 minutes earlier to the school and then you go home 30 minutes late. Because I will stay till everything settle down. So I stayed till late. So if you come start earlier 30 minutes and then go back 30 minutes late, about one hour difference. So this course only two hour, but you learn you have chance to study three hour one evening." So, he advise me like that, see. That time I was already 34 year old. Age little bit up, you see. Most students about 18 year old or 25 year old. But, me 34 year old already. So, he look my face.

"I think you all right," he said. So I wrote to commit to night class course. So lucky I was with about 20 students. This mechanical automobile course, you know. But they have motor winding, you know, this generator or motors winding course get. So I joined this course. So first electrical. And then after that, separate the radio course and then mechanical side. About one year continue. So, very interesting, you see. So I like some more course to take, but teacher said, "Too much expense. So this night school cannot continue because no fund too much, so you better take course from [correspondence course]."

California school, you know. Maybe communication course, you know. So you maybe, you can keep on. So sometime, you know, wholesale RCA or some other Nylen, this radio shop, or some other radio shop. And so teacher recommend to buy certain stuffs. So, different all kinds of items and then you go over there drop in and then same time you study course and learn your subject. You study real stuff. Maybe you can repair small radio. So more you understanding how to take care, how to replace stuffs.

CT: So, you studied radio until when?

HN: About four years. (Laughs)

CT: Till about 1937 or 1938?

HN: 1938, yeah.

CT: And then what?

HN: Then I, ice business all sold out, eh.

CT: Who did you sell to?

HN: Mr. Harada. Just nearby. Young man working together with me, you see. "So, maybe you young man, you know the old customers and then routing. So more easy to take care. So if you like buy, I like sell." I like start house wiring business, but I don't know this regulation in town.

CT: So just like Mr. Inaba sold to you, then you sold to Mr. Harada?

HN: Yeah. So, I ask City Hall examination for get license. "Who you take care and then with who you work together with wiring system," they asked. "No, no I never work, but I like start that kind of job."

"No, no you must have four years real experience with men who have license."

"No, no I don't have no real experience like this. Only I thought that if I get pass the examination and then you permit license."

"No, no, no you must have four years real experience and then if you pass examination we can give you license."

Oh, I don't know this. So I went some Japanese electrical store and contractor, haole contractor...[Interruptions: airplane noise] ...I went to this contractor, contractor hire me, "You little bit age too old. Suppose young boys be all right because we wiring most small cottages by the ceiling, under the house. But old men like you hard to hire."

CT: How come?

HN: I don't know, too aged, eh? About 37 year old, see. They like younger boys more to hire, see. So, I cannot, but I liked to get job, hard, eh? So, I went ironworks, see. Building structure.

CT: Is that Honolulu Ironworks?

HN: No, no. This Hawaiian Welding Shop. This Kewalo, right around Ala Moana Beach, nearby Kewalo Harbor. Fisherman boat, right in front. Hawaiian Welding Shop. Nearby. Over here [surrounding neighborhood] no buildings before see. I walk right through. More easy. And my

friend work. Boss is haole, Mr. Ross. If you say, "I don't know," no more job. "But I show you how to do," so you must be get the job. So I applied the--I can do something ironworks. So anyway, I get the job by my friend advice. So friend show me, you know, how to handle rulers, square rulers, or tape rulers, and then how to mark, how to punch, everything. Show me. Anyway I come this theater, you know, coming up. Toyo Theater, Kakaako Theater, Nippon Theater over there on Keeaumoku, Beretania Street. Before this it was called by another name. But now Nippon Theater. Kapahulu Theater, Kaimuki Theater, Kailua Theater. According to the blueprint, we cut material and mark and then welder cut by torch, eh. After two, three months, we come see, aiyaa, over here Kakaako showhouse. "When this come up?"

"I don't know."

"Oh, we make this?"

"You cut material so many months ago."

"Oh, first time I see."

CT: Is that before you went Japan?

HN: Yeah. So, slack come, you see. No job. That's why I thinking I like trip to Japan once.

CT: Did you get laid off?

HN: Yeah, because no job, you see. So many months, they say. I don't know when contract get, or we don't know. So they say, "Oh, we have to lay off everybody." So we lay off that's why no more job. [Since] no more job, I visit Japan. So 1938, September 1, I depart over here for Japan by boat. And then about six months, seven months I stay.

CT: Did you go by yourself?

HN: Yeah, family together.

CT: Everybody?

HN: Yeah, everybody go on the trip, see. Her and George and me. Three men together. Most I spend at the Kagoshima, my wife's native place. About six or seven months. And that time my friend stay at Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto City. So we coming back to Hawaii by the way I drop in this Kumamoto City, my friend house and stay two weeks, (Laughs) spend there. And then sightseeing Kumamoto place, Kumamoto castle, Aso volcano mountain. All around the vicinity.

CT: When you came back to Hawaii what did you do?

HN: I [returned] from Japan pretty soon I start radio shop.

CT: Your own business?

HN: Yeah. Up this Queen Street, nearby Cooke Street. Still get the wooden building, standing now. Selling lunch. This side one small room, Chinese owner. This structure building my one room I borrow from this Chinese man. I open small appliance store and then same time repair radio shop.

CT: How did you get the money to start?

HN: Oh, my friend help me. So only consignment sale, you see. Most Easy Appliance, Hawaiian Electric, I applied myself. And then I take to showroom over there. Customer what kind refrigeration, or range, or radio, what they like, or fans, eh. Customer like, I just contract and sell to customer.

CT: Oh, I see. So you didn't need too much money.

HN: No, no, no. Only just little bit capital enough you see. So I continue about two years. And then war broke you see. Then I was alien, you see. Now I report to the Signal Corps office. But I was alien. That's why cannot engage in communication system. But they don't tell me. They detain to Campbell building. Second building, one room.

CT: They took you? To this building? Where's that? Downtown?

HN: Yeah, downtown. Queen and Bishop commerce building, two story building. This one section room was investigation room, you know.

"What is room over here?"

"Oh, this FBI," they say, you know.

"Oh, FBI."

So, I cannot go home. But at nighttime about 9 o'clock, they release me. So some officer take me home.

CT: What day was this?

HN: I don't remember. December 7th is war broke out. After that, I think, one week, or two week, after that I have to report this Iolani Palace upstairs. Signal Corps office over there. Long time I stay over there. At last two officers follow me and then I was detained. No come home, no radio shop.

CT: Half a day or something?

HN: Yeah.

CT: Then what, did they allow you to continue your shop?

HN: No, no, no. No, no. After that I was detained and then some neighbor said army trucks came, everything pick up and then they went someplace.

CT: You mean all your radios and appliance...

HN: Small radio, small appliance all--only ice box, range just remained in the store, you see. Small appliances all take 'em see. Meet us, check us, you know check us. Everything that kind case, eh. So take away. So I cannot do anything.

CT: Did they pay you for that?

HN: No, no. Never paid.

CT: So what happened?

HN: After war over, and then somebody advise me, you must claim what cost was appliance and some appliance. I have wholesaler, you see. So just arrange to sell. But each customer only small amount, not so much complain to me. But I paid after close store certain balance I have to pay back to the owners, see. But I during that time work at the Honolulu Laundry. Small income little bit I paid up. So many months. But only small debt, I cover.

CT: So after they took away the small appliances, did you have to close the shop?

HN: Closing. Yeah. Because most I engage in repairing work, you see. But this communication systems radio, eh, I don't touch, what we call amateurs...

CT: Short wave?

HN: Short wave. I didn't touch.

CT: Oh, I see. How did you feel when they close your shop down?

HN: Oh, I thought because I am alien, you see. So, I cannot engage in this communication because I studied radio course--communication, radio engineering, most I study, you see. So I can make battery or anything. Generators, or motors, I can make by hand, you see. I study, you know, that kind most.

CT: So you think it was correct for them to close you down?

HN: Yeah--no. So, close down that's why I return to owner I must pay the rental, you see. So, house owner I return the place, eh? So, icebox, or washing machine or range all I return to the each office, Hawaiian Electric, or Easy Appliance, or Gas Company all return the stuff. And then certain balance I pay. (Laughs)

CT: So you didn't complain?

HN: Some customer they say they understand, yeah? Sorry, they say. I owe but circumstance they understand, you see. Some owe, but small owe, you see that's why they all forget. I no can forget they no claim. That's why more easily settle down. Long as settle down I am satisfied.

Okay, see. So I can work for my friend Mr. Murakami, laundry owner. So first time no job, me making bomb shelter in the warehouse because so many working people in the laundry, eh.

CT: So you got hired at the Honolulu Laundry?

HN: Yeah. Got friend, you see. "After you this radio shop take away what you're doing?" Oh I spend Pohukaina School, first aid. you know about one months up there and help somebody. As soon as no need over there, so I come to the laundry to help. So bumbai young man most they join the army. Young man. So, that time about 41--42 year old I think my age. So too old to be soldiers, too old. That's why I stay in dry cleaning or washing machine operating. But no driver. Young man all join soldiers, army. So boss asked me, "Before you driving ice car, ice wagon?"

"Yeah, I can drive."

"Oh, you go around certain customer."

"Oh, I no go around town like this because I am alien."

"Oh, never mind. We have to send, customer call us but no driver. But they need lot cleaning. So we must take care." So no can help I go outside all around driving, eh.

CT: Where did you go?

HN: Oh, Nuuanu, Nuuanu Y, some hotels, some doctors' office, hand towel, or dentist, certain week. Some individual customers downtown. Not regular set customer, you see. But one by one we continue to business. First time this Japanese laundry, that's why not so favored by everybody, you see. But army's clothes, navy's clothes too many, so we--this company take care, you see. Individual hotels each I go around, you see. Take our laundry, you see. So most haole laundry they take care army side. So, civilians I take care, you see. So, this business one by one grown up so my job is so many, so another drivers hired another driver, another section, you see. All separate. Waikiki side, Kaimuki side. So I only town section. Other side, Kalihi side, all over country side, eh.

CT: So war time the laundry really came big then?

HN: Yeah. So, and then worker inside laundry, mostly school teacher or bank teller, you know. Japanese bank teller, Japanese, see. Those people cannot hard work, you see. So they make laundry bundle by machine. Wrapping up or making lists, see. The kind take care. Some press iron by machines. So many, about 200 people come together and work together.

CT: Just from the war time?

HN: Yeah, war time.

CT: Mr. Murakami hired people. Did he live in Kakaako?

HN: Yeah. Before he living in this Kakaako section way up by now location shopping center. You see, over there was shallow place you know, but they all fill up now make shopping center.

CT: Ala Moana?

HN: Ala Moana. Now his home is Victoria and Beretania Street, Kinau Street corner, you see. But Mr. Murakami passed away 1946.

CT: But you knew him when he hired you? I mean, he hired you because you were his friend?

HN: Yeah. I was 1938, you know. I advise him. His father stay at Kumamoto [Japan] and then, you know, 70 year old and little bit sickness, weak, you see. So in hospital in Japan. So I visit Japan, so we go together same boat. He say, "I'm not ready yet. Everything no arrange yet. I cannot go together with you."

"Oh, that's sorry, but you apply to the hotel and they take care everything, papers, all arranged. So, you can go together [with me]."

"Oh, I see."

So we go the hotel boss and then we together same boat, we went Japan. That's why more [we became] friends. And then his father before Maui stay. But he start over here certain laundry business and then his father come to Honolulu and then they stay together, living together. But this man old, you see. Old man, [had] certain particular idea. So no can live together. That's why his father separate from the son's house, you see. But he's too old, lonesome. That's why he [father] come to my house and then this George, first son, about three year old time, he take care, you know. Yeah, so many years he take care.

So same time I go Japan I like see his father who take care this boy, small time. So same time visit hospital. So we went together. He at Yokohama, Port Yokohama just take train to direct Kumamoto. But I Kobe, you know. Her [wife's] brother stay up Kobe, see. So I stay at Kobe one week and then come to Hiroshima, friend house. Over here Mr. Kagawa's parents, mother stay Hiroshima. One night drop in there. And then I went Yamaguchi and then I went Kumamoto to see this Mr. Murakami's father in hospital. I visit hospital and two days stay over there. And then I went to my wife's native place Kagoshima. That's why Mr. Murakami good friends, see.

[Tape stops, then resumes.]

HN: We together Mr. Okada, Mr. Murakami and my family all together same boat we went to Japan.

CT: Before the war, how many people did Mr. Murakami employ in his laundry?

HN: Oh, about 50 people.

CT: And then during the war, it came to 200?

HN: Yeah, about 200. So many people must working condition. People must work, you see. So we work together.

CT: Like you, you were an alien and you couldn't operate your own store, so Mr. Murakami hired you.

HN: Yes.

CT: And you mentioned Japanese banker, Japanese school teacher. These people, they couldn't work too? Is that why Mr. Murakami hired them?

HN: Yeah. Must be able to work. Must work, you see. But most bank teller or school teacher, you know, easy job, they can do, see.

CT: Bank teller? With what bank?

HN: Oh, Pacific Bank or the kind Japanese or saving bank like this. Just temporary close, you see.

CT: Because they close the bank?

HN: So, this war comes and must find job to fit him, you see.

CT: And the school teacher is teacher of the Japanese school?

HN: Yes, Japanese school. So we together work same small section but 200 people together.

END SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 3-51-2-78; SIDE ONE

CT: I just want to ask you that question again because the tape ran out. I asked you if the 200 people who work in the laundry during the war, if most of them were living in Kakaako?

HN: Yeah, Kakaako or some other sections.

CT: Oh Honolulu?

HN: Yes. All over--Kaimuki side, or Kalihi side. Some Ewa plantation side. They come to over here.

CT: Was it mostly Japanese?

HN: Yeah. Most Japanese because Japanese firm. But Hawaiian or Chinese all mingle, mix up. Even today Filipino working or Hawaiian even today work same place.

CT: Then you worked in that job for how long?

HN: Oh, about I work 1967, 1968, I retire.

CT: Twenty-five years?

HN: Yeah, 25 years, that's 25 years. I don't expect to work 25 years. (Laughs) But some of my friends [said], "Yeah, you idea different. If you start your own business, maybe you can be boss, but you 25 years still you work same laundry. Only driver. (Laughs) I don't understand," my friend said, you know.

"Oh I'm satisfied because I keep on this position just like my own boss, myself. Because more easier. I was hired, but I managed my own way. That's why I'm boss driving. Very easy way. So I come along 25 years." (Laughs) They laugh, you know.

But today I have, you know, interest for name analyzing. This about-- I was 29 year old because just one year before I got first son. So I name this boy myself. But I write myself, my friend, or some kind of happening or accident or some famous people. I use to analyze. Some kind of meaning. So till today about almost 50 years naming, analyzing, so many hundred people I name already. There's some come up [to be] lawyers, some doctors, all kind, you know.

CT: You've been giving people names for 50 years?

HN: Yeah, yeah. They grown up, eh. Even today I am very interested. Other time some ladies come over here, and ask their family's relationship. I explain so and so, just hit down some point. I advise him. They like try to divorce. "No, no. You have children. In this case, must continue, come back together. Divorce last method. And then young lady like you find another man that's very unlucky style." So I advise her. But some kind of name they have certain good points, certain weak point, I explain to her and they satisfied and go home. So many cases like this, you know.

CT: You've been doing this for 50 years now. Why do you think people come to you?

HN: Oh, I just have interest to name, analyze, yeah. What happened, or what trouble come. Most how to settle down, you know. So they understand, you see. But most future [predictions]. Some childrens newly born I select certain names, they all grown up now with no trouble, you see. So maybe their friends show them to come apply what kind of name, what kind of letter. Most Japanese, Chinese character. They name, they don't know how to write, what kind character apply. But there is so many meanings you see. And many figures, one, two, three. Some kind of meaning, you see.

CT: You mean the number of strokes in the character?

HN: Yes. Character. There is something we call vibration, see. Even sound there is certain vibration you can hear. So astrology or that

kind sign there is some kind of meaning, you see.

CT: And how did you learn this?

HN: I don't know how to learn. But you know this Japanese editor before. He quit his job and then he open name analyzer business. He publish this pamphlet. I happen to read this pamphlet. So there show how to name, analyze, Japanese style. So, I figure myself, friend, or some rich people or famous people and analyze. Certain good point get. I use to figure and bumbai I memorize, you know. I see the Japanese letter, how many stroke, what meaning get. I memorize, I see, quick I know. So, some Japanese get name card. I see name cared, quick I understand sometime family relationship, you know. Parents--I think father passed away already. I think mother first passed away already. I can tell. So I use to say, "Oh this good name but unbalanced. I show certain place unbalanced. So family relationship or you get rich and if you work by pencil your ability will advance and then your position coming high." Oh, after two, three years they show that way, you see. So maybe "I like join financial office, saving and loan."

"Oh, I think all right, your name just fit. Go ahead." Now he head treasurer, you see. Good position, he get. And then he get children and they like me to select children's name. Oh, I can select. And so, so many hundred people. Small pictures over there in the case--that's all I name. Yeah. Already too many pictures so I change around [rotate the pictures], eh. So many bundle get, you see. Picture. Box full get. This one all grown up. This one small younger one. They one by one they bring down here. Most I name.

CT: These people do they live in Kakaako?

HN: No. So many section. Some Mainland already, they went, doing business. Some other island. Some Japan. So many Japan. Relatives maybe. Maybe children born, before born I name, give name. Some other island, too. Big Island, Maui, or Kauai. So many.

CT: But originally they know you from Kakaako?

HN: Yeah, yeah. Some boys through the boy friend. Some they know, see. Sometime live around come from here. Some stay in hotel and some time visit over here.

"How come you know," I ask them.

"Young time. I once come over here."

So she worry about marry, you know, like most girls.

"I can marry or not?"

"Can marry. You working at office so you have scarcely chance to talk boy friends because office work so hard to make date. That's why no chance to talk together. That's why you marriage will be late.

But you can marry."

"What age can I marry?"

"Oh, pretty soon. Or anytime pretty soon can marry."

So pretty soon she married. (Laughs) Ojisan ga ittatoori ni marry shita. [Just as the old man said, she married.] See, you get married.

"Doshite sore ga waku ka?" [How did you know that I would marry?]

"Oh, I don't know. Wakaran gane. [I don't know.] Word analyzed suru uchini waku yo. Omoshiroi ne. Watashi mo hakkiri shiranai. [When I analyze words, I understand. Interesting isn't it. I don't fully understand it myself.]

CT: Ronald was adopted too?

HN: Yeah.

CT: What year?

HN: Ronald wa ne 1945 koro ka ne. [I think it was about 1945.]

CT: When he was baby, too?

HN: Yeah. Are wa chiisai toki ni. [Yes, when he was a small boy.]

[Taping stops and then resumes.]

[Note: The rest of the interview was conducted in Japanese. A rough translation follows. Those interested in the Japanese may listen to the tape.]

HN: [Talking about healing people with God's help.] It unifies the spirit. Peace--it gives you a new peace. This humanity, so to speak, this idea comes from God; receiving the thoughts from God. This is the kind of thinking I hold. You and I are equal; everyone mingled together, seeking God's teachings from the depths of your heart. Enlightenment is the usual state.

My friend complains about a stomach ache, or a sore throat, or a headache and comes to see me. The Hawaiians here, the Portuguese too; when I went around delivering the ice, asked for my help. Once, for a headache, a man tied a towel around the head; with oil from the grass--he had five bunches of leaves and grass, this native Hawaiian--with a towel tied to his head. "What's the matter, what happened?" I asked him.

"Oh, I have sickness, sore head, you know."

"Oh, oh, sore head, I see. Okay, okay." So, I sat him on a chair, because he had a sore head. And from the back I massaged his shoulders. I massaged his shoulders a bit, then from the front, I gave an order... I put words on him in Japanese, "Your head doesn't hurt anymore!" I

say it very strongly and clearly. "Your head does not hurt! Take the towel off. You can do anything." Try, I told him. So the next day, I delivered ice--I have customers every day. And then, that Hawaiian said, "You good Jonah," to me.

I told him, "I don't understand the meaning, 'You good Jonah', but how do you feel?"

"Oh, better. I can do anything after you treatment. I can do anything."

And then, in the back area, the Portuguese do their laundry very early in the morning. In the old days, they did it by hand.

CT: In the Kakaako neighborhood?

HN: Yeah, this neighborhood was all Portuguese; there were many of these families. This area, now, there is a new building...in all the small cottages. They took the children early in the morning to wash their clothes. And then, sometimes their stomach did not feel good. There was lots of work, but they would complain about a sore head, so they couldn't work. I would return from delivering ice around 12 o'clock and they would be waiting for me.

"Oh, sit down chair." They would sit on the chair and I would touch the shoulder, just below the head, gently rub the shoulder and command the head to stop aching. With that the head stops aching. With that--wow! the person starts to perspire and sweat. In one instant he was sweating; ooh--! And then the headache was removed. He can do anything.

Then, there are head injuries with bleeding; lots of bleeding, so, I place my hand on the spot, and say the bleeding will stop. The bleeding stops and the pain is gone.

This happened a long time ago--Mr. Akana, a Hawaiian; he was big--oh, he must be 50 or 60 years old now and grownup--a grandfather. But when he was young, he was playing football when somebody hit him on the head with their front tooth and the bleeding would not stop--blood spouted profusely. So, his elder sister got a big towel, placed his head over the sink and dusted it with a white powder, saying, "No can stop, no can stop." The blood dripped into the sink, and would not drain because it was clotted like dough [with the powder]. The brother came to call, so I went. I didn't know there was a hole because of his hair. There were two holes bleeding. I put my hand on his head and said, "Blood stop! Pain go away! Now you can wash the hair, wash the sink, make it clean, throwaway the towel."

In the meantime the ambulance came. The brother was frantic and had called the ambulance, at the same time they called me. The youngster went to Queen's Hospital. And then, the next day, I told the boy, "Yesterday you went to the Queen's Hospital. Let me see your head..."

He said, "The nurse scolded me for calling an ambulance for such a small thing."

Another time, a Hawaiian person said, "Mr. Nakano, my head aches. I wait for you to pass to call you from my window, but you never seem to pass by."

"What's the matter; I'm your neighbor--you can call me anytime."

"I have been in bed all week; I've been waiting for you to pass."

"You must have fever; did you call a doctor?"

"Rather than a doctor, so many people go to you, sick people, and they all get well. Will you look at me?"

Not too much fever. Maybe catch cold. She was one of the big, old time Hawaiians. Her stomach came out here; and she complained about a sore shoulder. "Eh! Eh! Your headache will go away."

The next day she said, "Mr. Nakano, thank you too much."

(Laughs) "Is the sore all gone?"

"All gone, all clear, I feel very nice today."

After that, during the war, her brother rode a big army truck. During the war they drove you home from work, if you were late, they delivered you home. He jumped from the top of a five-ton truck, not being able to see the height at night. He was a tall person. From here, feet to waist, he was normal; from the waist up he shrank. Even the doctors couldn't figure it out.

CT: Eh?

HN: His chest shrank. So many months the doctor couldn't understand; he was always under a doctor's care. Here bad, there bad. Then, he developed a cough; something like asthma. "Will he get well?" I was asked.

"As long as a person breathes, any human ailment can be cured. There isn't an illness that can't be cured. It was just that there wasn't a suitable doctor to match the illness." I'm not a doctor. But sickness can be cured. God knows that sickness can be cured. After that the "chest case" was waiting for me to return from work. From noon until three, he waited, he came here and waited. When I came home I did the treatment. I explained what the doctor said, that his chest was shrinking like this and pinching his nerve, that's why he was suffering. "So, use this bar to [stretch] exercise; also, go out into the yard and cut grass. It's not good to lie still in bed. Move around, move around; do anything you want to."

CT: You told him that, Mr. Nakano?

HN: Yes, advice. And then, I gave treatment from time to time. So, his cough went away, his breathing became easier. After that, I told him, "You can go back to work, get a job. At home, you won't have an

income; you will worry. Remain in the army and get an easy office job." Later he got a job where a helper carried the heavy tools. He stayed on it for more than one year. He retired and moved to Kaneohe. He liked fishing and when he caught mullet he would bring me some, saying, "You were my neighbor, you helped me, you don't take money." He used to say that and give me mullet all the time.

Well, even the small children who I helped are now in college and going out into the world. In Manoa, on Elm Street, was this school teacher who had a son. I named him Norman Yoshinori Yamachika. But, around five years old, he developed sty eye. A cone comes out in your eye. It comes out in the upper eye, but his own doctor said, "Sty eye is nothing. It comes out, but heals right away." But, you know, when one side heals, the other side is infected; the upper gets it, then the lower eye. His father worked at the Hawaiian Tax Office. His wife was a Japanese language school teacher. This boy was five years old and an only son. They came to look for me, telling me the sty eye does not heal, and the doctor can't help him. "It is pitiful to hear him cry, 'My eye hurts, my eye hurts.' "

"Oh, is that so? Well, then, sit in this chair here." So, Mr. and the son Norman, sat together. Mrs. sat at another place. I placed my hands on her head and said, "Your child's sty eye will heal! Your son Norman's sty eye will be cured!"

"Is that so," she said. But whether it was cured, I didn't know then. Next time, I was working, while driving to pick up Honolulu Dairymen uniform, I passed Elm Street.

"Why, isn't it Mrs. Yamachika?"

"Ah, Mr. Nakano, gee, can you wait a minute?" she said, while I was still driving. "I am full of wonder," Mrs. said.

"Why?"

"From that time, this child's sty eye has not returned. It is now three month and not once has it come out. How was it cured?" she said to me. "I just can't get over it--how strange. If this child was to be directly treated by you, I could understand how he was cured; but the child was sitting on the couch and you put your hand on my head and the child's sty eye doesn't come out anymore," she said. "Tell me how you did it."

"I don't know; I just wonder too..." With that, we parted.

Six months later, going into December, we moved to this beach area and they came to look us up. This time it was father, mother and son. "We thank you very much. It has been six months since then and not once has a sty come out. We just can't understand it," they said.

CT: You have lived 64 years in Kakaako. I would like to ask what changes took place during those long years?

HN: The most prominent change was after 1951-52. This area, this section changed to industrial section. The greater part below by the cottages, the lots belonged to Bishop and Ward Estates. All those Japanese who had those cottages, they had leases. Those leases expired about 1951-52. After the leases expired, they moved elsewhere. Until then, families lived very close together.

HN's Wife: We have lived here longest.

HN: It's amazing how we all congregated before. Thinking about it, there must have been 400, over 700 families here. Well, after 1952, the residents gradually scattered about the island; and left.

END SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CT: At that time, Mr. Nakano, how did you feel with all your neighbors moving away?

HN: Those who had homes here were all on leased land, so it was somewhat difficult for them to settle down permanently. Also, the factories were built, and all kinds of facilities, and even though you built your own cottage, estates won't let go of the lease. That's why tenants were scattered. They went to look for their own home.

CT: Did anybody complain?

HN: Well, they did not complain too much. Those persons were reconciled to losing their homes. Even if you wanted to lease again, you could not after 1952. Until then you could.

END OF INTERVIEW

REMEMBERING KAKA'AKO: 1910-1950

Volume I

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